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March 17, 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD:

NSC Action No. 734 d states Council agreement (1) that Stalin's death presents an opportunity for world leadership by the President, (2) that the Special Assistant to the President should draft an address for early delivery by the President, and (3) "that there should be a coordinated and sustained emphasis and follow-up on this address by all appropriate departments and agencies, both at home and abroad".

The action in 734 d (3) has been transmitted to PSB for implementation (memorandum from the Executive Secretary, March 12, 1953). I assume that the Board or its Chairman will wish to handle much of this responsibility personally, but that a specially organized pattern of staff support will also be desirable. A draft proposal for such support, attached herewith, is submitted for Board consideration at the March 19th meeting.

The Chairman informs me that, in his view, this NSC action gives PSB the challenge of working out the first practical embodiment of unified cold-war strategy which President Eisenhower outlined in his San Francisco speech last October. Many new problems arising in this connection will of course have to be worked out on a trial-and-error basis. The attached proposal is merely a suggestion on how to get started.

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Acting Director.

Attachment:

Staff Support for PSB Implementation  
of NSC Action 734 d (3).

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COPY NO. 26  
March 17, 1953

STAFF SUPPORT FOR PSB IMPLEMENTATION

OF NSC ACTION 734 d (3)

It is recommended that the Board establish an Interdepartmental Working Group along the following lines:

A. Title: Working Group (Stalin). Symbol, WGS.

B. Composition: One member each will be designated by the agencies represented on the Psychological Strategy Board: State, Defense, CIA and ODMS. (Each should serve as the personal representative of the Board member from his agency and enjoy ready access to his principal for policy guidance and resolution of interdepartmental differences.) The Director of the PSB Staff or one of his senior assistants will act as Mr. Jackson's representative and will serve as chairman of the Group. Ad hoc participation, as needed, will be sought from the Treasury, Commerce and Justice Departments, and the Bureau of the Budget. Other agencies may be added from time to time at the discretion of the Chairman of PSB. These agencies will be requested to designate a high-level officer to serve with the WGS as appropriate.

C. Terms of Reference:

1. The basic purpose of WGS will be to assist the Board in arranging "a coordinated and sustained emphasis and follow-up on the President's address by all appropriate departments and agencies, both at home and abroad."

2. It will do this by serving as a continuous channel by which information and intelligence are brought to bear on the problem, ideas are collected and screened, and action is coordinated and expedited.

3. In addition to the President's address, WGS will be guided by the outline plan, "Psychological Exploitation of Stalin's Death" (if and when approved in revised form by the Board), but also will constantly review this plan in the light of the developing situation and propose changes when needed.

a. WGS will supervise preparation and coordination of supporting operational plans and projects to implement the strategic concept set forth in Part I.

b. WGS will recommend political, military and economic actions of psychological importance in support of the overall program.

c. WGS will arrange for adequate intelligence support to permit timely and well-phased execution or revision of plans.

4. While WGS will not have authority to give orders to anyone, it should serve as a useful catalyst in securing action by regular agency channels. Matters of major importance will of course be referred by it to the Board.

D. Reporting: The Chairman of WGS will report formally to the Chairman of PSB, twice monthly, on the development and implementation of the whole program.

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Page 1 of 1 Page

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